

In re Application of GRIER et al.
Serial No. 09/842,278

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 8-12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,805,899 to Evans et al. ("Evans"). Additionally, the Office action rejected claims 2, 5-7, 13-14, 17-18 and 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,614 to Barboy et al. ("Barboy"). Further, the Office action rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans in view of Barboy and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,809,170 to Leblang et al. ("Leblang"). Still further, the Office action rejected claims 28-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans. Finally, the Office action objected to claim 15 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and indicated it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter recited in claim 15 is allowable. By present amendment, claims 6-10, 14-15, and 17-37, have been canceled and claims 1, 3, 11 and 13 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 15, and claims 6-7, 10, and 14-15 were canceled as duplicative. Dependent claims 3, 11 and 13 have also been amended to place them in proper form for allowance. Applicants submit that all the pending claims now include the allowable subject matter indicated.

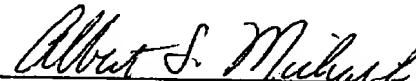
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 11-13, and 16 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is in good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment, along with transmittal and facsimile cover sheet, are being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) on the date shown below:

Date: September 15, 2004

Albert S. Michalik
Albert S. Michalik

2511 Second Amendment